

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 2, 2006, has been received and carefully considered. The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7-24 and 31-35 as allegedly being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,525 to Muthuswamy ("Muthuswamy") in view of U.K. Patent Application No. 2,329,309 to Beranek. Claims 1, 7-24, and 31-35 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of claims 1, 7-24, and 31-35 in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. Muthuswamy Is Not Prior Art

The Muthuswamy reference was filed December 27, 1999 and does not claim priority to any prior application. Thus, Muthuswamy has an effective filing date of December 27, 1999.

Applicants respectfully assert that the invention disclosed and claimed in the present application was conceived and reduced to practice prior to December 27, 1999. Applicants support the above-stated assertion with inventor declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, which were submitted in Applicants' response filed April 19, 2005, and which contain a showing of facts that establish the above-stated submissions. Accordingly, Muthuswamy is not a prior art reference with respect to the claims of the present application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 7-24, and 31-35 is improper. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The appropriate fee for a Request for a One-Month Extension of Time is filed concurrently herewith and Applicant believes that no additional fee is required. Nevertheless, in the event that a variant exists between the amount tendered and that determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to enter this Reply or to maintain the present application pending, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

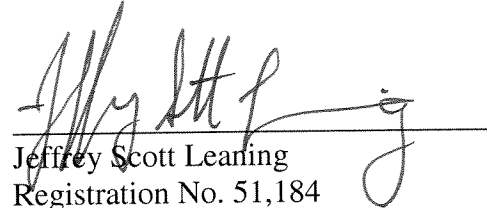
Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

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